NEWS FROM GOBIND SADAN

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Babaji with Dr. Khodorovskiy, Ukraine's Ambassador

"A New Light and Joy"

Dr.Karan Singh, MP, former Ambassador to the United States and former Cabinet Minister, and His Excellency Dr.Georgiy J. Khodorovskiy, Ambassador of Ukraine, came to pay their birthday respects to Baba Virsa Singh on February 21st. He told them that the crime and corruption that are rampant in the world today are under God's control, and that he sees in his inner vision that God will soon bring a great change for the better. *"There is no place where God is not,"* he emphasized. *"But if we build forts around our prophets and try to worship God only within these forts, perhaps we will never meet God. The reason for the great increase in crime is that we have cut ourselves off from that Power, and are trying to proceed according to our own ideas. His Love, His happiness, His desire to serve, His Light are within us all. Why then are we unable to feel His Presence? We are obsessed with ourselves and we do not turn our minds to the Divine. If we were to study the scriptures of all religions, we would see that their messages are universal. Instead, we approach them with the idea of reinforcing our own boundaries. If we come to the scriptures and prophets with the idea of opening the boundaries, these sectarian conflicts will drop away."*

Babaji related stories of all religions emphasizing that God is Love Itself. He quoted instances in which Prophet Mohammad asserted that if people inflame anger and conflict, or worship without love, they break their relationship with both the Prophet and Allah.

Babaji predicted, *"After the year 2000, many good people will arise in the world and the corrupt and criminal elements will fade away, because they will be disturbed by their own behaviors. People will become tired of these evils. When they taste what is emerging, all negativity will fall away, and a new light and joy will arise which will far exceed any earthly joy. Although waiting is difficult, you must wait a short time, with faith. As Guru Nanak says, 'In the twinkling of an eye, God can change the whole Creation.' The whole cosmos is like His puppet show, and if people so desire, perhaps the time is coming when He will change it all. From a worldly point of view, we wonder where the water will come from to quench such a massive fire. We wonder how so many people's minds can change. But if you look at it from a spiritual point of view, behind all of this is the Divine. The Master of the Mind can transform all minds instantly."*

"Both Worlds will open"

The birthday of His Holiness Baba Virsa Singh was celebrated February 22 with a candlelit procession of children to flower-bedecked holy places at Gobind Sadan. Singing "My Babaji, you have come — Welcome!," the children encircled the Guru Granth Sahib, the eternal sacred fire, the havan dedicated to Baba Siri Chand (elder son of Guru Nanak), and Jesus's Place. Their procession ended before Babaji in the hillside garden twinkling with colored lights. There the congregation spontaneously sang and danced for hours.

At midnight Babaji spoke, saying, *"You will notice that although Jesus was born 2000 years ago, his birthday is celebrated as if he were being born now. In bodily terms, Guru Nanak came to earth 528 years ago, but we celebrate his birthday as if he is with us, as if the whole cosmos is celebrating his birthday. Their birthdays are celebrated with even more fervor, in even more places, after they leave their bodies. Why? Their enlightenment has manifested, and their enlightened wisdom has been written and spread.*

One day we all have to leave our bodies, but those who have not meditated, who have not served nor done justice, will be remembered only until their death ceremonies are completed. Thereafter, we seldom remember them, and then only by their worldly work. We must understand, absorb, and acquire those things which are eternal.

Every person looks after his own children and his own self-interest. But the belongings of dervishes are for the entire world. Therefore at Gobind Sadan we create a big show on the prophets' birthdays, because they have given us

both the spiritual world and the material world. We spend lavishly for these celebrations, but we don't feel any lack, for the one whose birth we are celebrating has given us both worlds. Whatever we have is all yours.

All prophets have emphasized the need to work. It is our duty and our right to work hard and share the rewards of our labor with other people. We should meditate and share the love and enlightenment that are within us. History has been distorted because writers did not have the means to publish their writings; they had to write according to the desires of their patrons. Instead, we should spend money to see that history is not distorted and that the message of the Gurus reaches the whole world. How can it be spread? Through our own hard work, the income of our own hands.

Now, by the grace of God, I have time to sit, but for fifteen years [I while developing the farms which are the base of Gobind Sadan's income] I did not know what it was to eat or even to drink tea while sitting down. I was on my feet for twenty-four hours at a time. In my mind, there was a great race, for I thought, 'If you are to believe in dharam, then believe it as the Guru commands. If he says, "Work physically," then what will you gain by sitting idle?' Guru Nanak has placed great emphasis on work. He said, 'Only the person who works hard and shares the earnings of his own hands with others will recognize the path to God.' He says that a person who does not work cannot prosper; neither can one who works but does not share the rewards which he has received by the grace of God.

I firmly believe that if, while working, a person expresses his gratitude to God and meditates on God, both worlds will open up for him. His physical capacity to work will increase, and his thinking will also expand. His enlightened vision will increase, and he will earn far more worldly goods than an ordinary person. His enlightenment will become so great that even if all the countries of the world gave him all their wealth in order to buy his enlightened wisdom, they could not purchase it.

This thought does not come from reading books; it is a matter of my vision and my practical experience. I am not the son of a king. One day my father said to me, 'I want to give you whatever little worldly possessions I have.' I replied, 'My mind has been trained to never accept anything from anyone, even if it is my own father, mother, or brother. I will own only what I have earned myself. Whatever is yours, you are free to use as you wish by feeding others, for instance. But I have no right to it. I have a right only to that which I will get from God.'

God is very merciful, very generous. When as a child I kept sitting in meditation, my body felt as if it were on fire, I would want to drink something cooling. But my father said, 'You continue sitting idle all day, and bathing or drinking cold milk or cold water. What is this idleness?' Actually, I was sitting in samadhi. I felt a bit sulky toward my father. Then I felt that Guru Gobind Singh came with a bowl in his hands, saying, 'Here, have a drink of milk.' In my childishness, I also spoke angrily to him, saying, 'I won't drink it.' He said, 'Never mind. We won't drink milk from their buffalos. We'll bring our own buffalos.' Thus, in that year, sixteen or seventeen buffalos came to our house. There was so much milk that not only I, but also everyone else had milk far above our needs.

One day a man came riding a horse. The feeling came to me that it is very nice to ride a horse. At once I felt that Guru Gobind Singh said, 'We'll also get horses. What of it?' Fourteen, fifteen, sixteen horses arrived. I felt so enamoured of horses that I kept riding them day and night.

It is fixed firmly in my mind that the One whom we call Guru Gobind Singh, or Guru Nanak, or Father is so gracious that He does not even give you time to think before He makes you prosper. I've seen that throughout my life that even if I barely think of something, it is provided. I had to say to Him, 'Maharaj, I had barely thought of these things.' He replied, 'Even what you merely think of, I have to provide for you."

"Please listen to your alarm"

Babaji was asked to give a message for the third death anniversary of H.H.Acharya Sushil Kumar Ji. He responded, in part: *"Since time immemorial, Jain monks, nuns, and Tirthankaras have emphasized ahimsa [the principle of non-violence). The same teaching of non-injury to others has been given by every prophet. But even today, after all this teaching, we are failing to practice it fully. Aggressive actions are not the only form of violence; we injure others by our speech and our thoughts as well.*

Once this inner violence is controlled, whenever you look at someone, love will be created within them. Whenever you speak to someone, love will be created within them. But now this inner violence does not allow you any peace, and you speak violently with your tongue. It is possible that the force of violence is within you all. But make an effort to cast it out, through meditation.

We have been given a very sensitive thermometer by which our innermost thoughts and feelings are always being measured. This thermometer is equipped with an alarm which rings to alert us to the slightest bad thought or action. When we merely move our hand forward to commit some wrong action, the alarm rings. When we merely begin to think in an evil way, it rings. But we are not ready to listen to our own alarm. Instead, we are forever listening to other people's alarms. Please listen to your own alarm, which is ringing day and night, "Tunn, tunn, tunn!" The noise of this alarm is so loud that it doesn't even allow you to sleep at night. If an angry thought arises, immediately the alarm rings and asks, "Why is it necessary to be angry?" The alarm keeps clanging, but people have become so dull-witted that they have stopped listening. Our inner alarms may even be breaking down because they have become tired of making so much noise.

If we have any grievance against anyone, we must immediately sit and look inside ourselves to ask, "Is this fault that I am attacking in the other person also inside me? If it is in me, first I must remove it from myself. By then, perhaps I will not see that fault in the other person. Instead of fighting with him, the battle will be raging within me." If you do this, truth will finally be victorious. It will raise the battle cry, vanquish the inner wickedness, cast it out, and then retire to its camp to rest. Once we eliminate our own inner darkness, we are sure to see the light in the other person.

At present, our thoughts are out of control. Thought races so fast that no one has been able to measure its speed. Only one thing can stop its speed: meditation. The person who is able to apply the brakes to thought can diminish its value. Then the power of violence will come to an end, and the power of love will begin."

Gems from the Treasury

As Baba Virsa Singh continually speaks with people from all parties, countries, and walks of life, his words are recorded and added to the great and growing treasure of practical spiritual wisdom that has come through his tongue. These newsletters are an attempt to share bits of that treasure, but it is far more vast. Below are a few excerpts from Babaji's remarks to some recent guests:

On communalism, to Sri A. B. Vajpayee, Chief of the BJP party and former Prime Minister of India: *"Dharam [the eternal essence of religion] tells us that religion is not communal (only for one exclusive group). It is man who is communal. With dharam our glory will increase. With dharam, our actions will be good. With dharam, we will see God in trees, in flowers, in the whole cosmos. But if religion is communal, how can man be other than communal'?"*

The victory of truth, to Natalia Tots and Volodya Nadozhian, editor of Delphis Magazine and artist from Russia: *"Truth cannot be hidden for long, nor can evil long be hidden. Sometime or somewhere, the real inner nature of a person will come out. You cannot hide anything, for eventually it will sprout and emerge. People severely suppressed the prophets and mocked their truth, but still their truth persisted. At last, their tree sprouted.*

Truth is always tested. Who tests it? Evil — evil attacks the truth. But truth never stops shining, and evil keeps falling back. Truth's journey is very powerful, with a very strong base. It never wavers. It is definitely a long journey, full of travails, but evil can never suppress the truth."

"God is available now" to Sujit Banerji, the seniormost Indian Administrative Service officer: *"Guru Nanak has said that Kali Yuga [this darkest of ages] is the best time to be alive, for whatever you do with one hand, you immediately receive the fruits with the other. In other ages such as Sat Yuga [the Age of Truth], it took a great deal of effort, sitting a very long time in disciplined meditation, to become joined with God. But in Kali Yuga, you do not have to make much effort. You only have to love God. In other ages, people who loved God kept Him very busy. If everyone loves God, they have to wait a long time, because God must go to the homes of all who love Him. But in Kali Yuga, those who love Him are few, so He is not very busy. God talks to one who loves Him, but now He is mostly sitting idle. Therefore, Kali Yuga is a very good age, if one loves God."*

"Understand problems as God's gift"

Shirley Lanehart of Austin, Texas, is a member of the Church of Conscious Harmony, where ministers Tim and Barbara Cook often quote from Baba Virsa Singh's teachings. Facing an operation, Shirley took her copy of Jaap Sahib into the hospital. Immediately after she returned from surgery, she writes, "I found my copy of Jaap Sahib, sat straight up in bed and read it out loud. This is only a few hours after major surgery. The healing went very well and every day Barbara Cook came up and read Jaap Sahib aloud to me. It was so beautiful, I cannot begin to tell you. It looks so impossible here sometimes. In America we face such ingrained fear and illusion. We don't have any idea what it would be like to be loved unconditionally, by someone wanting nothing from us. We are so used to being manipulated that to have someone come and just be and give the way Maharaji's presence does... It can bring me to tears to think about it."

Babaji replied to Shirley, *"Life in the world is a great journey. If we have firm faith, love for God, and willingness to serve, and are always keeping God in our thoughts, even though many difficulties and obstacles will arise along the way we will pass through the darkness and difficulties in this endless journey. When these four things develop within you, they make such a strong base that no worldly thing can shake you from this foundation.*

A person thinks that he should understand things through his own thoughts, his own vision. But there are certain things which are far above our realm of understanding. Enlightened wisdom is far beyond worldly wisdom, for God is Enlightenment of enlightenment. Even if we acquire enlightened knowledge, even then some of His knowledge remains hidden from us.

In the midst of worldly hardships, sometimes we ask, "I have great faith in God. Why must I suffer like this?" Understand this very attentively and lovingly: These sufferings are a very small measure of what you were to face. You have been given a karmic shortcut. Instead of the great difficulty which was coming to you, your account has been cleared by your undergoing just a small difficulty.

Many things happen that are beyond our understanding, so sometimes we are surprised, sometimes

we are worried, sometimes we are afraid. We don't know whether this suffering or illness or difficult situation will be beneficial to us or not. In the midst of such matters, a person is always somewhat upset.

To remain happy, look at difficulties with the feeling that this is something great that God has done for our benefit. We do not know what the benefit is, but it is possible that there is some benefit behind the worldly difficulties. Perhaps because of these difficulties our life will become better in the future, perhaps our thoughts will become better, or perhaps we will be freed from pressure.

The messiahs and prophets have thus repeated this guidance over and over again: Welcome even difficulties with love. Love God even in the midst of problems. Whatever God does, love His actions. We should be aware that nothing is outside of God. Nothing is outside of His command, His healing, His feeling, His vision. If we face any difficulties, we should have the love and faith to feel that we do not know what this difficulty really is.

The prophets and messiahs gave us many examples to help us live in this world, to help us understand our lives. Jesus called to a dead person, and he arose. He wanted to demonstrate that God is a Power so great that it can bring the dead to life, or give sight to the blind. Jesus also gave us his own example: While being crucified, he saw the crucifixion as God's love, just to show us that the nails are His love, the cross is His love, and being nailed to the cross is also His love. Without God's command, no nail, nor hammer, nor cross can be made, nor can people have the ability to carry out the action. This is all His power.

Sometimes a person is afraid of receiving the gifts which God sends. But never be afraid of any gift. As *the Sikh Gurus hove said, "Pain and hunger are always occurring. Oh Giver, these are also Your gifts, for nothing is outside of You. Poverty is You, and the strength to tolerate poverty is also You. Where are You not prevailing?*

Even those who are most beloved of God may be made to suffer by God. The Fifth Sikh Guru was made to sit on a hot iron plate, and hot sand was poured on him. Nonetheless, no one could destroy his love for God. He said, 'I feel so happy and I dance in joy that today You have looked upon me and spoken to me.' Jesus had a vision that he would be made to carry the cross, whipped, nailed to the cross, crucified. He prayed to God, 'This cup of suffering is coming. Will You not remove it?' But then suddenly, Jesus agreed, 'No! This is for You. If You have earmarked this especially for me, then it is fine.' God does not always send us sweet gifts. Sometimes one has to go to the gallows in His Love.

At times we waver in our faith. Instead, always think that God has sent us, has given us birth, and is even more concerned about us than we are about ourselves. For example, God creates us in a place where our first nourishment is provided. We could not do such a thing for ourselves. When we are in our mother's womb, God knows what food to give us, how to keep us alive, by what means to shape our body's development. Even before we emerge from the womb, God is concerned about what food is to be given to us once we are born that which will provide all nutrients, protect us from disease, and support our development. While we are still in the womb, He creates these things in our mother's milk and keeps it ready for us. It provides the best food of all for the child, the best development, the best love, the best willpower. Thus we should always be aware of God's great concern for us.

Therefore try not to doubt what you do not understand. If we consider it, ninety percent of things are not within our understanding. We can only judge those things which we can see with our eyes, things which are directly before us. But we cannot see everything.

Always have faith in Maharaj ['The Great King,' used both for God and Guru]. He will always save you. Not only will He save you breath by breath in the present; He will save you in the future and He has saved you in the past.

Never think that Satan will attack you. Satan will not attack any place where there is the Love and Truth of God and faith in God. There Satan will also bow before Him, because Satan is also His slave. Understand that Satan is created by God and is also under His command. Satan will not do anything outside of God's command, for God's Power is Supreme. Nothing can stand against His Power.

If we look with enlightened vision, we can see that God has created everything. He has given the creative command only once; there has been no need for Him to issue His command a second time. The cycles He has created are continuing. By His command, everything is developing, ascending, and descending. God is so powerful that there is nothing against His command."



Babaji with H.H. Mar Thoma Matthews II,
H.H. Swamy Chidanandaji, and ambassadors
at Father Gregorius Memorial function, Delhi Orthodox Centre